

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ATHENS 06595 151545Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00
SP-02 L-03 PRS-01 /039 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1583
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS ATHENS 6595

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, GR
SUBJ: REACTION TO AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE'S SFRC APPEARANCE

REF ATHENS 6544

1. ALTHOUGH THE HEADLINES ARE IN LARGER PRINT, THE ATHENS AFTERNOON PRESS PRETTY WELL FOLLOWS THE BASIC THEMES OF THE MORNING NEWSPAPERS (REFTEL) IN STRONGLY CRITICIZING THE ALLEGED COMMENTS OF AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE BEFORE THE SFRC AND QUESTIONING THE STATUS OF HIS APPOINTMENT. THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY THE "GOVERNMENT SOURCE" AND BY OPPOSITION LEADERS PROVIDED THE MAIN BODY FOR STORIES OF THE AFTERNNON DAILIES.

2. NEW ELEMENTS ARE SURFACING IN THE REPORTING. SOME NEWSPAPERS CLAIM IT IS KNOWN UNOFFICIALLY THAT THE GOG IS SEEKING IN WASHINGTON CLARIFICATION OF AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE'S REMARKS. SEVERAL SUMMARIZE AN AP STORY FILED FROM ATHENS THAT THE CONTROVERSY THREATENS THE IMPROVEMENT OF U.S.-GREEK RELATIONS THAT HAS OCCURRED DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS. A FEW ACCOUNTS EVEN LINK REPORTS ACCORDING TO WHICH AMBASSADOR EAGLEBURGER SPOKE IN A LOCAL DIALECT
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DURING A RECENT VISIT TO A MACEDONIAN AREA OF YUGOSLAVIA WITH AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE'S SFRC TESTIMONY, SUGGESTING THAT U.S. POLICY MAY BE DIRECTED AT A REARRANGEMENT OF BORDERS IN THIS PART OF THE GLOBE. THIS LAST ACCOUNT EMPHASIZES THAT BOTH MEN WERE VERY CLOSE TO FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER. FINALLY, IN A MORE SYMPATHETIC VEIN, SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS LAMENT WHAT THEY SEE AS BEING THE UNFORTUNATE STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR

SCHAUFLE, BUT ATTRIBUTE IT TO HIS LACK OF BACKGROUND IN THE AREA AND UNFAMILIARITY WITH THE ISSUES.

3. HEADLINES FOLLW: OPPOSITION, LEFTIST TA NEA:

"DOUBTFUL IF HIS APPOINTMENT WILL BE APPROVED-THE OPPOSITION
DECLARES: THE NEW US AMBASSADOR IS INADMISSIBLE--MR. MAVROS
AND PAPANDREOU CONDEMN;" LEFTIST ELEFTHEROTYPIA:
"DEMARCHÉ TO WASHINGTON ABOUT THE NEW AMBASSADOR - HE SHOULD
NOT EVEN PUT HIS FOOT IN GREECE THE PARTIES DEMAND--THE
AMERICANS DETECT FLARE-UP OF ANTI-AMERICANISM;" PRO-GOVERNMENT
VRADYNI: "CONCERNING THE STATEMENT REGARDING THE AEGEAN--
WRATH AGAINST SCHAUFLE--THE APPOINTMENT IS CONDITIONAL;"
AND ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE ESTIA: "THE DECLARATIONS OF THE
NEW US AMBASSADOR ARE INADMISSIBLE".
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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